alternately puncturing a select group of the plurality of parity bits between the first and the second encoder.

39. (New) A system as claimed in claim 35, wherein the set of Turbo Codes comprises a rate 1/3 Turbo Code wherein at least one of the puncturings comprises:

puncturing a select group of the plurality of parity bits at the first and the second encoder.

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40. (New) A system as claimed in claim 35, wherein the set of Turbo Codes comprises a rate 1/2 Turbo Code and further wherein at least one of the puncturings comprises:

puncturing at the encoders a select group of the plurality of parity bits and alternately puncturing at the encoders another select group of the plurality of parity bits.

REMARKS

Entry of the above amendments, and early and favorable consideration on the merits are respectfully requested. Upon entry of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 18-40 will be pending.

Should the Examiner have any questions, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the number indicated below prior to taking action on the application.

Respectfully Submitted,

John T. Whelan
Reg. No. 32,448

HUGHES ELECTRONICS CORPORATION
P.O. Box 956
Bldg. 001, M/S A109
El Segundo, CA 90245-0956
Tel.: (301) 428-7172

Dated: Feb. 8, 2002

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on February 8, 2002.

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

In the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 6: --This application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 of the filing date of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/240,338, filed February 11, 1999, and under 35 U.S.C. § 1.19(e) of the filing dates of U.S. Provisional Application Nos. 60/072,368, filed January 23, 1998, now abandoned, 60/074,932, filed February 17, 1998, now abandoned, 60/075,742, filed February 23, 1998, now abandoned, and 60/076,464, filed March 2, 1998, now abandoned, the entire content of each of these provisional applications are incorporated herein by reference.--

In the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 15: --A signal from a mobile station ([*A*]a mobile signal [≅]) received at a base station receive antenna 122 is amplified in a base RF receive 124 and demodulated in a spread spectrum demodulator 128 using the same PN-code used by the mobile RF transmitter 118 to D-spread the signal. The demodulated symbols are D-interleaved by a channel D-interleaved 130 an input to a Viterbi decoder 132. The decoded information bit are reconstructed into receive data blocks 136 and forwarded to the data terminal equivalent at the receive end of the system.--

In the paragraph beginning on page 28, line 30: --Figure 30 shows exemplary performance curves of the above four (4) candidate puncturing Patterns 5, 6, 7 and 8 for rate 3/8 Turbo Codes. Based on these results, a Pattern 8 FER curve 3010 and analogous curves [such as those shown, for example, in Appendix A,] demonstrate that Pattern 8 is the optimal puncturing Pattern for rate 3/8 Turbo Codes.--